

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action of June 6, 2006, and notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, as well as the approval of the specification amendment. In response, an amendment is made to claim 1 to place it in condition for allowance, and a Petition for a one month extension of time is presented. In light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 now recites a vacuum cleaner including a main housing and a dirt cup including a dirt cup housing removably attached to the main housing and having an inlet and an outlet in a first sidewall thereof. The structure the Examiner alleges qualifies as the dirt cup housing in U.S. Patent No. 5,961,677 to Scott is the vacuum cleaner body 12 itself, and not that of a removable dirt cup housing. Moreover, the filter 10 in Scott does not include an inlet and an outlet formed in a first sidewall, nor is any suggestion made of providing the same. Accordingly, it is believed that the inventions of present claim 1 and its progeny patentably distinguish over Scott and should be allowed.

New claims 20-21 are also presented for consideration. Claim 20 requires *inter alia* a dirt cup carried on one of a nozzle assembly and a canister assembly, the dirt cup having a first sidewall with an inlet and an outlet in fluid communication with a dirt collection chamber. Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and requires that the dirt cup is carried on the canister assembly of the vacuum cleaner. Since no such arrangement is disclosed, taught, or suggested by the Scott patent, favorable consideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

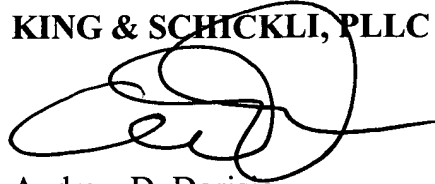
In summary, all the pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art and should be formally allowed. Upon careful review and consideration it is believed the Examiner will agree with this proposition. However, if it is determined that a further issue requires

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attention, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned. Any fees due may be debited from Deposit Account 11-0978.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew D. Dorisio', written over the firm name.

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